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Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-02 INR-07
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
USIA-15 DHA-02 IO-14 AID-05 COME-00 EB-08 FRB-01
TRSE-00 XMB-04 OPIC-06 LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01
AGRE-00 OES-07 CU-04 HEW-06 /131 W
----------081092 041338Z /45
R 041125Z AUG 77
FM AMEMBASSY COLOMBO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7847
INFO CINCPAC

UNCLAS SECTION 1 OF 2 COLOMBO 2733

CINCPAC FOR POLAD FOR AMBASSADOR WRIGGINS

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PGOV, PINT, ECON, CE

SUBJ: UNP THRONE SPEECH ON NSA OPENING

1. IN A COLORFUL CEREMONY ATTENDED BY THE DIPLOMATIC CORPS AND GUESTS OF THE 166 NEW DEPUTIES, THE NATIONAL STATE ASSEMBLY WAS OPENED ON AUGUST 4, WITH THE ELECTION OF ANANDATISSA DE ALWIS, NEW MP FROM KOTTE, AS SPEAKER, AND THE READING BY PRESIDENT GOPALLAWA OF THE PRIME MINISTER'S PROGRAM SPEECH.

2. THE 13-PAGE (ENGLISH TEXT) SPEECH CONTAINS SOMETHING FOR NEARLY EVERY ONE, YET COVERS SOME 15 TO 16 MAIN POINTS. FOLLOWING IS A SUMMARY OF THE TEXT, COPIES OF WHICH BEING SENT NEA/INS TODAY, BOTH BY POUCH AND IN OPEN INTERNATIONAL MAIL.

3. ALTHOUG PLACED LAST IN SPEECH, MOST IMPORTANT POLITICAL PLEDGE WAS FOR EARLY SUMMONING OF AN ALL-PARTY CONFERENCE TO REMEDY TAMIL GRIEVANCES IN FIELDS OF EDUCATION, COLONIZATION, USE OF TAMIL LANGAUGE, AND EMPLYMENT IN PUBLIC AND SEMI-PUBLIC
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CORPORATIONS. THE DECISION OF THIS CONFERENCE WILL BE INCLUDED IN THE NEW REPUBLICAN CONSTITUTION, WHICH WILL GUARANTEE FUNDAMENTAL INDIVIDUAL RIGHTS, PRIVILEGES AND FREEDOMS, RE-ESTABLISH INDEPENDENCE OF THE PRESS AND JUDICIARY, FREEING THEM FROM POLITICAL CONTROL AND INTERFERENCE. EXECUTIVE POWER WILL BE VESTED IN A PRESIDENT ELECTED "FROM TIME TO TIME" BY THE PEOPLE, BUT PARLIAMENTARY SYSTEM WILL BE PRESERVED SINCE

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PRIME MINISTER WILL BE CHOSEN BY PRESIDENT FROM MAJORITY PARTY IN PARLIAMENT AND ALL MINISTERS MUST BE DEPUTIES.

4. OTHER MATTERS INCLUDED, ASIDE FROM ECONOMIC MATTERS WERE A PLEDGE TO FOSTER ALL RELIGIONS, BUT GIVING BUDDHISM AS THE MAJORITY RELIGION "ITS RIGHTFUL PLACE", JORGANIZING THE PIRIVENA RELIGIOUS SCHOOLS, ESTABLISHING MORAL COES OF CONDUCT FOR DEPUTIES AND MEMBERS OF THE GOVERNMENT WHICH WILL BE ENFORCED, AND A SERIES OF GOALS IN THE FIELD OF EDUCTION, INCLUDING IMPROVEMENT IN THE TEACHING OF ENGLISH AND OTHER INTERNATIONAL LANGUAGES. CASES RESULTING FROM THE 1977 INSURRECTION WILL BE REVIEWED.

5. THE FOREIGN POLICY SECTION IS VERY GENERAL. UNQUALIFIED SUPPORT FOR UN CHARTER AND EFFORTS OF UN AND ITS AGENCIES TO PRESERVE PEACE, ERADICATE COLONIALISM, NEOCOLONIALISM, APARTHEID, "BIG POWER HEGEMONISM", ELIMINATE POVERTY AND BACKWARDNESS AND INTRODUCE A NEW INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC ORDER. PRINCIPLES OF NON-ALIGNMENT "WHICH WERE FIRST ADOPTED AT THE AFRO-ASIAN CONFERENCE AT BANDUNG IN 1955", I.E. AT THE TIME OF A UNP GOVERNMENT, WILL BE SUPPORTED. NO MENTION OF OUTSIDE ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE IS MADE IN ANY CONTEXT.

6. MOVING TO THE ECONOMIC ISSUES, WHICH RCEIVED THE MOST SPACE IN THE SPEECH, A PLEDGE WAS MADE TO REDUCE THE COST OF LIVING, WITHOUT SPECIFYING HOW. A "MINIMUM CEREAL CONTENT
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OF EIGHT POUNDS PER ADULT PER WEEK" WILL BE MADE AVAILABLE TO THE PEOPLE. PUBLIC CORPORATIONS WILL BE CLEANSED OF CORRUPTION AND INEFFICIENCY.

7. IN THE AGRICULTURAL SECTOR THE GOAL WILL BE TO ACHIEVE SELF-SUFFICIENCY, ESPECIALLY IN RICE. TO ACHIEVE THIS THESE STEPS WILL BE TAKEN: REMOVE ARTIFICIAL PRICE CONTROL OF FARM PRODUCTS; EXTEND THE GUARANTEED PRICE SCHEME; ENACT A FARMER'S CREDIT LAW, BEGIN FARMERS' EDUCATION COURSES; ADEQUATE FERTILIZER AND OTHER SUBSIDIES; AND AN EFFICIENT FARM TO MARKET TRANSPORT SYSTEM. IN ORDER TO ACHIEVE BETTER USE OF LAND RESOURCES, EFFORTS WILL BE MADE TO: BRING UNDER CULTIVATION LAND NOW UNCULTIVATED, RESTORE VILLAGE TANKS, ENCOURAGE LARGE SCALE TREE PLANTING, ENCOURAGE FARMERS COOPERATIVES. THE LAND CEILING WILL NOT BE CHANGED, BUT FREEDOM OF TRANSFER, MANAGEMENT AND DEVELOPMENT WILL BE LEFT TO THE OWNERS.

8. A NUMBER OF PLEDGES ARE MADE ON IMPROVING FISHERIES: HARBORS, COLD STORAGE FACILITIES, BOATS' ENGINES, SPARES, NETS AT REASONABLE PRICES, A COAST GUARD RESCUE SERVICE, BREEDING OF FISH IN INLAND WATERS, ESTABLISHING DEEP SEA TRAWLERS AND ENCOURAGING EXPORTS.

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9. IN EDUCATION, THE SINGLE UNIVERSITY STRUCTURE WILLBE RE-
PLACED BY A NUMBER OF INDEPENDENT AND AUTONOMOUS UNIVERSITIES.
AGRICULTURAL EDUCATION AND THE ESTABLISHMENT OF SCHOOL FARMS
WILL BE ENCOURAGED. THERE WILL BE PARENT ORGANIZATIONS AND
TEACHERS' ORGANIZATIONS; RURAL SCHOOLS WILL BE UPGARDED;
THERE WILL BE SPECIALIZED SCHOOLS FOR THE PLANTATIONS,
AGRICULTURE AND FISHING INDUSTRIES, NIGHT SCHOOLS, ADULT
SCHOOLS, VOCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS, EVEN PART TIME EMPLOYMENT
FOR STUDENTS DURING VACATIONS.

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ACTION NEA-10

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R 041125Z AUG 77
FM AMEMBASSY COLOMBO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7848
INFO CINCPAC

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CINCPAC FOR POLAD FOR AMBASSADOR WRIGGINS

10. ELIMINATION OF UNEMPLOYMENT WILL RECEIVE UTMOST PRIORITY.
THERE WILL BE DISTRICT LEVEL INDUSTRIAL CENTERS, COOPERATIVE
FARMS, COOPERATIVE TADING CENTERS, AND A SRI LANKA YOUTH
MOVEMENT TO RECRUIT PEOPLE FOR A NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT SER-
VICE, APPARENTLY A SORT OF CCC SCHEME. THERE WILL BE A SEPARATE
YOUTH MINISTRY AND ELECTED YOUTH REPRESENTATIVES IN THE
PEOPLE'S COUNCILS. THE TRADE UNION MOVEMENT WILL BE CHANGED
TO REMOVE OUTSIDE POLITICAL CONTROL OF UNIONS. ORGANIZATIONS
OF EMPLOYEES WILL BE FORMED BY WORK PLACE WITHOUT POLITICAL
AFFILIATION, WITH REGULAR ELECTIONS OF OFFIERS AND A CHECKOFF
OF DUES WITH STATE SUPERVISION. FROM THESE ORGANIZATIONS WILL
BE ELECTED DELEGATES TO SERVE ON MANAGEMENT ALONG WITH GOVERN-
MENT APPOINTEES (PRESUMABLY THIS RELATES TO THE STATE COR-
PORATION SECTOR).

11. INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT "THROUGH FOREIGN COLLABORATIONOR

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DIRECT INVOLVEMENT" WILL BE ENCOURAGED AND PROMOTED BY WAY OF FREE TRADE ZONES GEARED TO EXPORTS, TO INCREASE EMPLOYMENT, EARN FOREIGN EXCHANGE, AND REDUCE DEPENDENCE ON FOREIGN AID.
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12. MUCH STRESS IS LAID ON HEALTH MATTERS WITH PROMISES TO IMPROVE RURAL HEALTH SERVICES, ESTABLISH SEMI-SKILLED PARAMEDICS, EMPHASIZE PREVENTIVE MEDICINE, ENHANCE FAMILY PLANNING SERVICES WITH FINANCIAL INCENTIVES TO INDIVIDUALS WHO PRACTICE THEM, ENCOURAGEMENT TO FOREIGN AND LOCAL FIRMS TO MANUFACTURE DRUGS LOCALLY BY GRANTING NECESSARY INCENTIVES, AND UPGARADING OF ATTENTION PAID TO AYURVEDIC MEDICINE. A NATIONAL SOCIAL INSURANCESCHEME IS PROMISED FOR THE SELF-EMPLOYED, ALONG WITH CRECHES FOR WORKING MOTHERS, AND HOMES FOR THE AGED AND HANDICAPPED.

13. MORE THAN APAGE IS DEVOTED TO MEASURES TO PROMOTE HOUSING CONSTRUCTION AND OWNERSHIP INCLUDING RELIEF FOR ONE-HOUSE OWNERS WHO HAVE NOT BEEN ABLE TO GET THEIR HOUSE BACK FROM TENANTS (EVEN WHEN THE TENANTS OWN OTHER PROPERTY).

14. LOCAL GOVERNMENT IS TO BE REVITALIZED BY CREATING A NETWORK OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT BODIES, WHOSE RESOURCES WILL BE PROVIDED FROM THE CONSOLIDATED FUND TO THE LOCAL BODIES, WHOSE HEADS ARE TO BE ELECTED. ELECTORAL (I.E., BY ELECTORAL CONSTITUENCY) DEVELOPMENT COUNCILS WILL BE HEADED BY THE LOCAL MP AND INCLUDE ELECTED MEMBERS AND OFFICIALS OF LOCAL BODIES AND GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS IN THE DISTRICT. DISTRICT DEVELOPMENT COUNCILS WILL BE HEADED BY A DISTRICT MINISTER OF STATE, 22 OF THEM, WHO WILL NOT BE A CABINET MEMBER, AND WILL INCLUDE MPS, ELECTED HEADS OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT BODIES AND GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS.
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